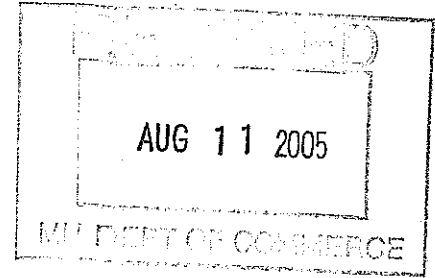




Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40²⁵



August 5, 2005

Honorable Judge Kathleen Sheehy
Office of Administrative Hearings
100 Washington Avenue, Suite 1700
Minneapolis, MN 55401

RE: Great River Energy Cambridge Station Environmental Assessment
EQB Docket #05-92-PPS-GRE-CAMBRIDGE STATION

Dear Judge Sheehy:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Great River Energy Cambridge Station in Cambridge Township, Isanti County, MN. With respect to potential impacts to natural resources, and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §116C.575 subd.6, the DNR offers the following comments.

Item 2.1.8 – Pipeline (p.7)

Potential impacts from the construction of the pipeline include crossing wetlands and streams, and the potential for entrapment of Blanding's turtles, a state-listed threatened species. The DNR will need to review the pipeline route, once determined, to help the project proposer identify potential natural resource impacts.

Item 3.3 – Other Permits (p.12)

The EA correctly states that project construction may require a License to Cross Public Lands and Waters, and a Wetland Replacement Plan Application once the pipeline route is determined. The DNR will need more information than is supplied in the EA on locations of water crossings and the construction method used for crossings when applications for permits are submitted.

Minnesota Statutes §116C.61

Minnesota Statutes §116C.61, Subdivision 3 requires state agencies authorized to issue permits for construction of large electric power generating plants to state whether the site, and other design matters, under consideration for approval by the Environmental Quality Board will be in compliance with agency standards, rules or policies. As is noted in the EA, project construction and operation will require a DNR Water Appropriation Permit. Project construction and operation will be in compliance with DNR's standards, rules and policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. Please contact me with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matt Langan'.

Matt Langan, Environmental Planner
Environmental Policy & Review Unit
Division of Ecological Services
(651) 297-3359

c: Tim Bremicker, Tom Balcom, Mike North, Sarah Hoffmann, Carole Schmidt – GRE, Bill Storm - EQB

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